



Grafton Conservation Commission

MINUTES of the GRAFTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

May 19th, 2015

7:00 p.m.

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A meeting of the Grafton Conservation Commission was held in the Finance Committee Meeting Room of the Grafton Municipal Center on May 19th, 2015. Present were: Co-chairperson Sandra Brock, Peter Finn, Heather Trudell, Kathleen Theoharides and Conservation Agent Maria Mast. Absent was Co-chairperson John Wilson.

Co-chairperson Sandra Brock opened the public meeting at 7:05 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/MEETINGS:

7:15 p.m. – Request for Determination of Applicability – Engine Company Two Association, Inc. – Bridge Street & North Main Street - The applicant is proposing tree and brush removal for a community service project. The applicant is requesting that the Conservation Commission determine whether the area and/or proposed work are subject to the Wetlands Protection Act or Grafton Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Roger Courier and Stephen Roney of Engine Company Two Association presented their plans for the Bridge Street clean up service project. The project is intended to beautify the area by clearing away overgrown vegetation and invasive species from the area surrounding the historic bridge to open it up to pedestrians, fishing and picnicking. The applicant was not able to clearly define the limit of clearing that is being proposed, stating that they had not fully investigated the extent of the overgrowth on site. The Commission suggested that the Conservation Agent meet with the applicants on the site to more clearly determine the limits of work being included in this Request for Determination of Applicability. Sandra Brock requested that the applicant demonstrate proof of ownership of the site and that the permission had been obtained from the owner for the applicant to proceed with the project. The Commission determined they would take no action pending a site visit by the Conservation Agent. Heather Trudell made a motion, seconded by Peter Finn to continue the hearing to June 2nd, 2015. Motion carried unanimously. Documents used: Notice of Public Hearing; WPA Form 1 – Request for Determination of Applicability, submitted 04/24/2015; Agent's Report to Commissioners dated 05/19/2015.

7:30 p.m. – Request for Determination of Applicability – Metrowest Facilities, LLC – 2 Elliot Trail (Assessor's Map 83, Lot 19) - The applicant is proposing changing the existing post and rail fence to a chain link fence, replacing the remaining brick sidewalk along the parking area with a concrete sidewalk, and removing other brick areas and replacing them with landscaping. The applicant is requesting that the Conservation Commission determine whether the area and/or proposed work are subject to the Wetlands Protection Act or Grafton Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Charlie Lagasse of Metrowest facilities presented the site plan and proposed alterations to the Commission. The applicant is proposing to replace an existing paver pathway with a concrete sidewalk and to convert an existing split rail fence to chain link fence. Peter Finn made a motion, seconded by Heather Trudell to issue a negative determination with the following conditions: straw wattles must be used as an erosion barrier during construction, a concrete washout must be available on site during construction, and materials shall not be stockpiled within the 100' wetland buffer. The motion carried unanimously. Documents used: Agent's report to Commissioners dated 05/19/2015; Notice of Public Hearing; Request for Determination of Applicability and Site Plan dated 05/01/2015; mapgeo.com/graftonma/.

7:45 p.m. – DEP File # 164-889 - NOI, Application for Grafton Wetlands Bylaw Permit # 722 and Application for Stormwater Management Bylaw Permit # 15-001 (continuation) – Frederic Churchill – 114 Merriam Road, Lot 1 (Assessor's Map 59, Lot 24) The applicant is proposing the construction of a single family home, driveway, utilities, grading, landscaping and stormwater infiltration basin within the 100' buffer

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zone to bordering vegetated wetland and an infiltration basin, well, grading and landscaping within the outer riparian zone of the Riverfront Area.

7:45 p.m. – DEP File # 164-890 - NOI, Application for Grafton Wetlands Bylaw Permit # 723 and Application for Stormwater Management Bylaw Permit # 15-002 (continuation) – Frederic Churchill – 114 Merriam Road, Lots 2, 3 & 4 (Assessor's Map 59, Lot 24) The applicant is also proposing the construction of 2 driveways, utilities, grading, landscaping and 3 stormwater management basins within the 100' buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetland. Carl Hultgren of Quinn Engineering presented revised plans to the Conservation Commission. The revised plans have reduced the total amount of driveway area by approximately twenty seven hundred (2700) square feet and reduced the total amount of buffer zone impacts by approximately sixty nine hundred (6900) square feet from the original proposed plan. Mr. Hultgren stated that they have addressed the issues raised by Graves Engineering during the peer review process for revised plans. One requirement that they did not meet was the removal of 80% of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) from stormwater prior to entering the basin. Mr. Hultgren requested that the Commission give them credit for the additional removal of TSS that would occur with overland flow as stormwater flows into the onsite basins, as this reduction is not included in the stormwater calculations. The Commission agreed that this would be acceptable on this specific site since it is a small residential development with low potential for pollutants, but said that the applicant should request a waiver from this requirement of the Grafton Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Mr. Hultgren made the request for a waiver verbally during the hearing. Peter Finn made a motion, seconded by Heather Trudell to grant the waiver as requested. Motion carried unanimously. No work is proposed within the 25' no-disturb buffer; in some locations work is proposed just outside of the no-disturb buffer. Co-chairperson Sandra Brock stated that she would like to include a condition that required the location of erosion controls near the 25' no disturb buffer to be surveyed per the site plans prior to installation. Scott Jordan of EcoTec, Inc. was also in attendance to represent the applicant. He informed the Commission that he had performed two follow-up site visits to investigate the location of a potential vernal pool as the Commission had previously requested. He confirmed that the area was not a vernal pool and submitted photographs of the area to the Commission. Mr. Jordan submitted a written request to withdraw the Notice of Intent for Lot 1, DEP File #164-889, without prejudice as this lot is longer part of the proposed site plan. Heather Trudell made a motion, seconded by Katie Theoharides, to close the public hearing and issue the Order of Conditions at the June 2, 2015 meeting. The motion carried unanimously. Documents used: Correspondence from Graves Engineering, Inc. dated 05/08/2015, Agent's report to Commissioners dated 05/19/2015; Site plan with final revision date of 05/11/2015; Notice of Public Hearing; Notice of Intent dated 04/06/2015; mapgeo.com/grafonma/.

8:00 p.m. – DEP File # 164-894 - NOI, Application for Grafton Wetlands Bylaw Permit # 727 (continuation) – Roscoe Bicknell, III – 12 Bicknell Road (Assessor's Map 38, Lot 21) The applicant is proposing the construction of a single family home and associated utilities within resource areas. The applicant Roscoe Bicknell was in attendance along with his representative, Norman Hill of Land Planning, Inc. The applicant presented a letter that he composed to the Commission. Norman Hill presented the changes they have made to the site plan to further reduce negative impacts to the site. These changes included shrinking the size of the proposed yard and infiltrating roof runoff on site. Mr. Hill informed the Commission that the lot was created by the MA Turnpike Authority in 1954 and should therefore be considered to be grandfathered from the conservation regulations that were enacted after this lot was created. The Commission determined that they would like the Conservation Agent to consult with Town Counsel on the subject of grandfathering and whether or not a waiver would be required. At the applicant's request, Heather Trudell made a motion, seconded by Katie Theoharides to continue the hearing to June 2nd, 2015. Motion passed unanimously. Documents used: Notice of Public Hearing; Notice of Intent Site Plan, dated 05/19/2015; Notice of Intent & Application for Grafton Wetlands Bylaw Permit, submitted 03/10/2015; Correspondence from Norman Hill of Land Planning dated 05/19/2015; Correspondence from the Applicant dated 05/19/2015; Agent's Report to Commissioners, dated 05/19/2015; mapgeo.com/grafonma/.

8:15 p.m. – DEP File # 164-897 - NOI, Application for Grafton Wetlands Bylaw Permit # 730 – Town of Grafton, Sewer Department – 9 Depot Street (Assessor's Map 124, Lot 63) The applicant is proposing improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Facility within the 100' buffer zone to resource areas. At the applicant's request, Peter Finn made a motion to continue the public hearing to June 2nd, 2015. Heather Trudell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Documents used; Notice of Public Hearing; Correspondence from CDM Smith dated 05/14/2015.

ACTION ITEMS:

DEP File # 164-64 – 11 Ann Drive – Request for partial Certificate of Compliance.

The Conservation Agent reported that the site was stable and work was complete. Peter Finn made a motion, seconded by Heather Trudell to issue a partial Certificate of Compliance. The motion carried unanimously. Documents used; Agent's report to Commissioners dated 05/19/15.

DEP File # 164-64 – 49 Lincoln Lane – Request for partial Certificate of Compliance.

The Conservation Agent reported that the site was stable and work was complete. Heather Trudell made a motion, seconded by Peter Finn to issue a partial Certificate of Compliance. The motion carried unanimously. Documents used; Agent's report to Commissioners dated 05/19/15.

DEP File # 164-641 – Maple Ave 58R – Request for extension

Scott Jordan of EcoTec, Inc. represented the applicant. Mr. Jordan is requesting an extension of the Order of Conditions. The applicant has installed the large stream crossing near the entrance of the site but has not completed the remainder of the work. The project was previously extended an additional 4 years under the Permit Extension Act. The Commission informed Mr. Jordan that the project was not eligible for any additional extensions under the Permit Extension Act, but they agreed to grant a one year extension under the Town Wetlands Protection bylaw pending a site inspection to be completed by the Conservation Agent. The Commission informed Mr. Jordan that if the work was not completed within the one year extension, the applicant would have to file a new Notice of Intent. Documents used: Agent's report to Commissioners dated 05/19/2015; mapgeo.com/grafonma/; Notice of Intent dated 06/23/2006.

OTHER ISSUES:

Operating norms for Concom
Changes to Regulations
Open Space Plan
Restoration Plans
Enforcement Orders
Subdivision Issues
Certificates of Compliance

REGULAR BUSINESS:

Review new filings
Review and approve bills
Review and approve minutes
Review correspondence
Review site inspections
Schedule site visits
Issue Order of Conditions
Conservation Land

Sandra Brock made a motion, seconded by Kathleen Theoharides to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes drafted by Maria Mast

Approved on September 15, 2015